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Claim of KGB plot draws 'Penthouse' into UMW fray

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Washington—About four months ago, Bob Guccione, the kingpin of the *Penthouse* magazine empire, sat in his brownstone mansion on Manhattan's fashionable East Side and listened intently to a strange tale from an unlikely caller.

Michael Dood Gill, the right-wing Republican power broker who operates the former presiden-

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tial yacht *Sequoia*, was telling Mr. Guccione about coal, Richard L. Trumka and the KGB, the *Penthouse* publisher later recalled.

The meeting had been arranged by Charles Anderson, Sr., a mutual friend of Mr. Guccione and Mr. Gill and, until a few years ago, the maitre d' at New York's swank 21 Club.

As Mr. Guccione later recalled the conversation, Mr. Gill told him that Mr. Trumka, then challenging Sam Church, Jr., for the presidency of the mine workers' union, had raised a staggering, multimillion-dollar war chest for his campaign, in large measure through the good offices of the Soviet secret police.

Why, the intrigued Mr. Guccione wondered, was the KGB interested in an election for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America? He said Mr. Gill told him the proposed Soviet-European pipeline was the key.

According to Mr. Guccione, Mr. Gill, a Church campaign adviser, said that unless European customers could be sure of an uninterrupted supply of American coal, they could become overly reliant on the pipeline to meet their energy needs.

To cement that prospect, Mr. Guccione said he was told, the KGB was quietly backing Mr. Trumka, who as mine workers' chief could be counted on to champion strikes that would continually disrupt coal deliveries to Europe.

Fascinated, Mr. Guccione asked to meet with Mr. Church himself. Soon thereafter, Mr. Gill escorted Mr. Church and his close advisor, Gary M. Callen, back to the mansion. They told essentially the same story, the *Penthouse* publisher said.

Mr. Gill would later tell *The Sun* that neither he nor the Church campaign had ever sought to portray Mr. Trumka as a communist or a communist tool, just as he would deny that his curious unpaid involvement in that campaign was based in part—as previously reported in this series—on an expectation that the mine workers' bank w

Mr. Gill's Presidential Yacht Trust, which operates the *Sequoia*, was at that point nearly broke. It owed the California partnership from which the boat was leased several hundred thousand dollars. The trust also was embroiled in a costly court battle to keep the boat from being forced to go to Florida each winter for use by its former owner. The boat itself, though seaworthy, was badly in need of maintenance and repair.

Mr. Church has refused to be interviewed by *The Sun*. Mr. Callen, who brought Mr. Gill into the campaign during the summer, said the Church camp did not attempt to smear Mr. Trumka.

Mr. Callen also denied that Mr. Gill had any reason to hope the mine workers' bank would reconsider its decision and finance the *Sequoia* after his loan request was turned down two months before the union's November 9 election.

The union controls the majority of stock in the National Bank of Washington. Mr. Church and Mr. Callen, the UMW official with whom Mr. Gill worked most closely during the campaign, both sit on the NBW's board of directors.

Mr. Guccione said that when he met with Mr. Church, Mr. Gill and Mr. Callen, it was emphasized to him that the coming election was nothing less than a matter of national security. There were references to federal agencies, though none actually were named, he said.

But Mr. Guccione got the picture. As he remembered that meeting, Messrs. Gill, Church and Callen—though they never identified themselves that way—seemed to him nothing less than unofficial emissaries from his government.

"I believed they were operating in some sort of semi-official way," he said. "I guess that's the way it looked.

They indicated to me certain government agencies were interested in the outcome of this election, and the pipeline story seemed to be the thrust of it," he said.

Mr. Gill further explained, Mr. Guccione said, that he and his associates were "trying to mount this effort in the private sector" because government agencies could not be seen as taking sides in a union election.

To buttress their arguments, Mr. Guccione said Mr. Gill gave him "a report prepared by one of our senators." The publisher said he believed it was one that carried the by-line of Donald E. (Buz) Lukens.

Mr. Lukens is a state senator in Ohio, not a U.S. senator. Mr. Gill later told *The Sun* he gave Mr. Guccione a different, but similar document. Mr. Gill also denied saying government agencies were interested in the election.

"I said I was very impressed by their story," Mr. Guccione said. "I asked how could I help." Money was a problem, he said his visitors replied. In contrast to Mr. Trumka's alleged KGB-primed war chest, which Mr. Guccione said was placed at \$12.5 million, the Church campaign had "virtually nothing."

Mr. Trumka said his campaign raised about \$230,000, while Mr. Callen said the Church campaign raised about \$385,000. At the New York meeting, the impressed Mr. Guccione agreed to help. Through him, the near-penniless Church campaign was able to obtain an estimated \$50,000 to \$80,000 in television and radio time for an advertising blitz in the final 10 days of the race, time which still has not been paid for.

He did this by authorizing his in-house advertising agency, Tilley-Marlier Advertising, Inc., to sell the Church camp on credit radio and TV time that previously had been purchased for use by *Penthouse*.

The time was sold at cost, that is, *Penthouse* did not profit from the sale. The agency, however, was to be paid a commission for placing the ads when the Church campaign received its bill, sometime after the election.

Mr. Guccione's intercession, although it did not involve an actual cash contribution, was highly important because it allowed the financially beleaguered Church campaign to obtain a potentially crucial block of advertising time that it might otherwise have been denied because of its